

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the application as amended. Claims 1, 3 and 7 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to improve clarity. Claim 7 is newly presented. Support for the subject matter added to claim 1 is found at least in FIG. 2, and in the specification on page 3, lines 31 to 32. Support for new claim 7 is found at least in the specification on page 8, lines 27 through 30.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 6,146,566 (Beeck). Applicants traverse the rejection as to all pending claims.

Beeck teaches a process for spinning polyamides through a spinning nozzle casing using an exhaust device positioned under at least one round spinning nozzle plate. Vapor is injected tangentially into the upper portion of the nozzle casing, travels through one or more annularly disposed helical grooves, and is conducted against a circular, horizontally positioned groove. The vapor is then suctioned off by the exhaust device through an annular passage. In the device taught by Beeck, the vapor or steam initially contacts the circular, horizontally positioned groove only where it exits from the helical grooves formed in the spinneret body.

Beeck fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. First, Beeck does not teach, disclose or suggest an annular space through which steam flows in the annular space around the spinneret pack body and along the spinneret pack body in a primarily downward axial direction. Rather, Beeck's vapor flows through helical grooves formed in the spinneret pack. Unlike Beeck, where the vapor or steam contacts the horizontal groove only where it exits the helical grooves, Applicants' invention allows steam to travel downwardly in the annular space between the spinneret pack and the spin head. In this way, the steam hits the steam distribution ring at many radial points about the ring's circumference, and the steam is then deflected inwardly toward the orifice array.

Second, Beeck's circular, horizontally positioned groove is not removably connected to the spin pack. While Beeck describes the "exhaust device" as "detachably connected" to the spinning head, Beeck does not teach or suggest that the circular, horizontally positioned groove is removable or detachable. See Col. 4, line 60; see also

Col. 3, line 7 and Col. 4, line 33. The "exhaust device" in Beeck comprises elements 14, 15, and possibly element 12, but does not include the groove 8. The Examiner can point to no teaching in Beeck that the groove 8 should be removed to optimize results. Rather, the Examiner draws this conclusion only from hindsight knowledge after having reviewed Applicants' disclosure. This is not permitted under Section 103(a). While Beeck appreciated that certain elements could be removably assembled to allow easier access to the spinneret face, Beeck did not identify groove 8 as one of those elements that could or should be removed. The Examiner is not permitted to read a detachable or removable capability into Beeck. There is no prima facie basis for a rejection of claim 1 under Section 103(a).

Third, in new dependent claim 7, the steam distribution ring is fabricated from aluminum. This preferred material makes the steam distribution ring more readily mounted into a counterbore in the spin head, while still allowing the ring to be readily removable for access to the spinneret face. Beeck does not specify the material of the groove 8, and certainly does not recognize the advantages for making a steam distribution ring from a soft metal with suitable coefficient of expansion, such as aluminum. Claim 7 thus distinguishes over the disclosure of Beeck.


In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 3 and 7 should be allowed.

Deposit Account Authorization

No fee is believed due for this Amendment. Nevertheless, should any fees be required in connection with this Amendment, including a fee for an extension of time, such extension is requested and authorization is hereby made to charge any fees due or outstanding, including any extension fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1165 (INVISTA North America S.a.r.l., formerly KoSa).

Respectfully Submitted,
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP

Dated: July 9, 2004


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

BOBBY R. BRADY, ET AL.

CASE NO.: RD8005USNA

APPLICATION NO.: 09/886,073

GROUP ART UNIT: 1722

FILED: 21 JUNE 2001

EXAMINER: JOSEPH S. DEL SOLE

FOR: MAGNETICALLY ATTACHABLE STEAM DISTRIBUTION RING FOR THE SPIN PACK
BODY

OFFICIAL

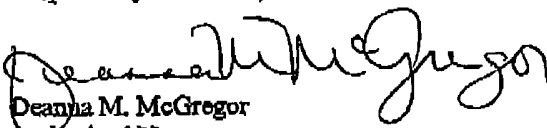
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Should any fee be required in connection with the filing of the attached Amendment, please
charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-1165 (INVISTA North America S.a.r.l. - formerly KoSa).

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: 7/9/04